

DISTRICT V ADVISORY BOARD

Minutes

www.wichita.gov

**August 7, 2006
7:00 p.m.**

**Auburn Hills Golf Course Clubhouse
443 S. 135th West**

Severn (7) District Advisory Board Members attended the District V Advisory Board meeting. Also in attendance were four (4) City staff. Approximately 10 members of the public were present with 5 signing the sign-in sheet.

Members Present

Dave Almes
Maurice Ediger
David Dennis
Jerry Hoggatt
John Marker
Clarke Sandberg
DeAnn Sullivan
Council Member Bob Martz

Members Absent

Bob Bulman
Andy Johnson
Ann Welborn

Staff Present

Officer Laurie Kimrey, Police
Captain Terry Nelson, Police
Cynthia Berner-Harris, Library
Dana Brown, City Manager's Office

Guests

Bryan Frye, 3109 Ridge Port, 67205
Roger Wilkerson, 785 E. Prestwick,
67212
Paul Hawkins, SC KS Library System
Jessica Weins, SC KS Library System
Paul Tobia, 12102 Ridgpoint

Call to Order

Council Member Bob Martz called the meeting to order at 7:07. He welcomed the public and explained that the District Advisory Board is advisory to him as the District V City Council Member. He explained the protocol for the meeting would allow all people who wish to speak on an agenda item to wait until the public is given the opportunity while reviewing the item. If the public has items to present that are not the agenda, they can be presented on the Public Agenda portion. The Council Member asked persons to wait for acknowledgement before speaking and to speak their name and address clearly before making their comments. He also asked the audience to refrain from debating or making disrespectful comments or actions while others were speaking.

The Council Member then asked for approval of the minutes for the July 10, 2006 meeting. The minutes were approved as written with a motion passing 7:0. No changes to the agenda were presented.

Staff Reports

Community Police Report

Officer Lori Kimrey, Beat 19, reported on policing activities for the West Patrol during the past month, including Beats 19, 199, and portions of 16 & 18. She reported that Beat 16 had a Safety Fair in which a number of children were ID'd through the Identi-A-Kid program. She also said the Officers of Beats 16 & 18 had been working diligently with the hotel/motel owners along Kellogg to be sure state statutes are followed on registration and posting of registration information in the

rooms. Officer Kimrey said the accurate registrations help Police locate criminals and persons with warrants who will register under false names if the owner/manager does not ask for proper identification.

Beat 19 reported having 10 Block parties for National Night Out but Police had visited more than that number so apparently not all of the parties were registered. Traffic enforcement efforts have been targeted on 21st & Maize to help reduce the number of accidents. The efforts have paid off as the accident number was reduced from 20 in June to 8 in July. Graffiti is still an issue from “taggers,” who are individuals not typically affiliated with a gang. In Beat 199, 13 Block Parties for National Night Out were registered but again, Community Police Officers believed there were more parties actually held.

Overall crime numbers in July for District V included a reduction in business larcenies, residential larcenies, and residential burglaries. Residents are still inviting crime by leaving garage doors open and vehicles unlocked with keys & purses inside. Churches, too, have been targeted and efforts by Police are being made to visit with church ministers about locking the sanctuaries and other facilities. Along with the visits, Police are developed an e-mail distribution list for the churches in the four beats.

Officer Kimrey also stated that a Neighborhood Patrol Training would be offered on August 24 & 26 by Police, Office of Central Inspection, Environmental Services, and the City Manager’s Office. The training will help residents be able to identify code violations in their neighborhoods and work with residents to resolve. If the efforts fail, the violation will be turned into the City for citation process. (Since August 7, the Neighborhood Patrol Training has been postponed until early 2007 in order to allow City staff to build capacity to respond to increased reporting from citizens as well as new programs for neighborhood revitalization, such as StopBlight.)

Hoggatt asked about how to handle loose dogs vs. vicious dogs to which **Officer Kimrey** said to call Animal Control for loose dogs and for vicious dogs to call 911. **Hoggatt** noted that Animal Control had been called to Maple Valley on countless occasions for loose dogs had never responded.

Almes said the lane division lines on Maple Street between Ridge Road and Tyler at Lowe’s & Target have worn off. These will be checked on and turned into Public Works by Police.

Ediger asked why a grant was used for traffic enforcement activities at Kellogg & 21st Street. **Captain Terry Nelson** reported that the state provides the grants for areas of concern identified by cities in Kansas and that off-duty officers are used for the activities. **Dennis** asked if the same level of policing would continue into the fall & winter with School Resource Officers going back to schools. **Captain Nelson** said those officers are mainly used for vacations, etc. so the level of enforcement remains the same.

Captain Terry Nelson, Patrol West Commander, then asked to provide a brief report to the DAB. He stated that the Patrol had used a STEP (State Traffic Enforcement Program) Grant from Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT) to focus on the high accident areas of West Kellogg and West 21st Street. The grant funding goes to all cities in Kansas for special enforcement efforts prior to holidays. Because Wichita has areas of high reported accident numbers, the City continues to get the grant funding. Enforcement efforts will be place during August 18 – September 5 for continued emphasis on West Kellogg and West 21st Street to have a positive effect for the Labor Day weekend.

Reported accidents are ones in which \$1,000 damage is incurred or a DUI is involved. Frequently, these accidents are the result of people running a red light, or trying to beat a yellow light that turns red while they're in the intersection. The first initiative for the July 4th Holiday began June 12 when the average number of accidents was 25/day on Kellogg and 21st Street. Eight hundred (800) tickets were written for a variety of violations including speeding, no seat belt, inattentive driving, etc. The number of accidents/day was reduced to 7/day at conclusion of the enforcement.

Captain Nelson also explained the work with hotel/motels previously noted by Officer Kimrey. He said that a city ordinance requires registration of guests with photo ID and a vehicle license number. The education being carried out by the officers is important to help Police with reducing gang activity, prostitution, meth labs, & other drug use & sales. Police can ask to review the registration records to help locate people who are known or thought to be involved in these activities.

Paul Tobia, 12102 Ridgepoint, asked if any consideration was being given to having cameras at intersections for taping vehicles with their license numbers that run red lights. **Captain Nelson** said the cameras were really too expensive and that Police would continue with the targeted enforcement.

New Business

Master Library Plan

Cynthia Berner-Harris, Library Director, presented the background and an update for the Library Master Plan, in order to take comments from the Board. She explained that the library branches of Rockwell and Westlink were first located in individual buildings in 1965. After that, Park & Recreation facilities were created and from 1965-1985, additional branches were located in the Park & Rec facilities and commercial areas. One branch was Sweetbriar shopping area in north central Wichita but it did not have good visibility. This experience told staff that the branches needed to be visible and on high traffic streets. That branch has now been moved across McLean to the Marina Lakes shopping center on West 21st Street.

A new concept then began to develop regional libraries to provide a higher level of service such as extended hours to residents in a larger area. As a result the small libraries at Stanley and Colvin schools were closed when the Lionel C. Alford Library was built. Around the same time, the bookmobile was begun. Additionally, when the City Arts Building moved from 25th & Arkansas to downtown, the Evergreen Branch Library was built in that site and the Minisa Branch was closed. The current plan now calls for expanding and updating Westlink and the east branches.

Updating the current Library Master Plan is being considered mainly for the Central Library which experiences a huge demand for technology and its rapid changes. Infrastructure is limited in the buildings mainly due to maxed out electrical capacity. The Library just completed its summer program, serving 10,000 kids. Circulation in 2006 is has reached two million items.

A survey of library services conducted earlier indicated that most citizens prefer a larger library with enhanced services and are willing to drive at least 15 minutes to reach the library. Other priorities—which are included in the Draft Master Plan—includes providing significant research capability at the Central Library; located in core or downtown area; free and accessible parking; preserving the special need fulfilled by the Maya Angelou Branch Library; and, service to clients with limited income including transportation.

Council Member Martz said that he was very appreciative for the efforts made by the Library staff and the Library Board Members to serve the community. He then asked the Board Members for comments regarding the Library Master Plan. **Ediger** said he had been principal of Hadley Middle School when the nearby Orchard Park Branch Library closed, which really concerned him due to the loss of resources for kids in the area whose parents weren't able to purchase computers and provide them literary resources. **Dennis** noted that Fran Hoggatt, a previous DAB V Member who was also a previous Library Board member, always kept them up to date on library issues. **Dennis** asked if the plan is aggressive enough to keep up with the growth in west Wichita. He also noted that he teaches at North High school where many kids don't have computers at home to use for their school work. Having those in city facilities is important for the educational progress of these students. **Hoggatt** asked if security was an issue if the electronic system becomes wireless. **Berner** responded that security is provided through the Library ID card. **Sullivan** said the updating might need to be done more often to keep up with changing technology. She also made some suggestions for a drive-up window to pick up & drop off materials. She suggested that marketing for library services could be increased and also asked if the Bookmobile could be used more. **Berner-Harris** said the Bookmobile is used to fill gaps can't provide comprehensive services. **Marker** suggested a space for kids and an area for adults that serves coffee. Almes again voices concerns for the plan being aggressive enough, especially for the Westlink Branch to continue meeting the demand through 2013. **Marker & Sullivan** also said that the length of time to wait on a list for availability of a particular book is much too long.

Berner-Harris introduced some Library Board Members attending the meeting including Barbara Baker who serves as Council Member Martz' appointment to the Library Board. Baker stated that not everyone could be pleased. She also said that Recreation Centers may be a potential place for more public use computers. Almes acknowledged the service Baker as the previous librarian at Northwest High School.

Action: Provided comments.

Tennis Center

Bob Martz, District V City Council Member, provided information on a possible plan under consideration by the Council to use federal grant funding of approximately \$430,000 for a downtown recreation center to upgrade the courts at the Ralph Wultz Tennis Center and add a dome or bubble for activities during cold weather. The Capital Improvement Program (CIP) includes approximately \$200,000 for court renovation, which would be used with the grant funding for the total project. The urgency for this item is the ending date on September 6 for use of the grant funding. Confusion has existed about the time period of use among the federal agency, city staff, & the council, now causing a "use it or lose it," grant status.

The tennis courts are currently in need of replacement and that would be completed first with the dome being built later. The dome would allow the courts to become a multi-purpose facility for tennis, basketball, & other learning activities as well as events such as a wedding reception.

The **Board** asked questions about cost of utilities & whether fees could possibly pay, durability of the dome structure to protect against vandalism, whether the grant is for tennis only, & could other activities damage the tennis court surface? Council Member Martz addressed most questions with information received from the dome vendor but said the City did not yet have answers to questions regarding utilities, fees, & dome warranty.

Bobbie Harris, representing a local group of women who organized several years ago through the Mo Connelly Foundation to service the community youth with tennis programs. Harris gave some background on the efforts to improve the Riverside Tennis area for the youth program. She previously taught at North High School, using the Riverside courts for many years for tennis activities. Then Harris and Sue Schlapp joined forces to begin expanding youth tennis programs within the community. They formed a group of eventually hundreds of women to develop the plan, collected donations from the community, and received funding from the Mo Connelly Foundation to see their project realized. Transporting kids to facilities is a part of the youth program and the domed courts was a way to accomplish use of the courts throughout the year. The model program is based on the Springfield, MO program, which has been very successful.

Paul Tobia, 12102 Ridgeport, noted that approximately \$630,000 is available for the courts upgrade and asked how much the dome would cost. Council Member Martz said the exact cost is unknown but the grant would cover the cost of the courts.

Board Members Sandberg and Ediger advised that there is an issue of timing and citizen perception for doing this proposed project. They urged marketing to clarify the funding sources. **Council Member Martz** reminded the Board that this would allow year-round use of the facility for not only tennis but also a variety of activities and use. He noted a letter from Mary Ellen Randal, the local Mo Connelly Board President, which identified many types of uses for youth as well as working with YMCA for busing kids to facility.

Roger Wilkerson, 785 E. Prestwick, said he has two daughters who have played tennis for several years. He spoke about their family's investment including money and time as the daughters' had played on the circuit. He said Riverside has always been a nice facility that is very affordable. The dome could be an eyesore but he said it would definitely be used.

Ediger said that he keeps hearing about this being done for kids but couldn't adults take advantage of the dome also. **Council Member Martz** said the Park & Recreation Department would handle scheduling just like they do at other facilities.

Almes and Hoggatt said they both supported Council Member Martz on the decision to use the grant money for renovating the tennis courts including a dome.

Dennis said it is a bad time for this project and things could be ugly. Even though he understood the situation presented by use it or lose it, he felt the City didn't have enough information about costs, etc. to rush into doing the project. **Council Member Martz** said there would be time to stop it but if the City doesn't let for bids soon, we won't know what we need to know about costs, maintenance, structure, warranty, etc.

Sullivan also encouraged everyone to not overlook the work already done by the local Mo Connelly group. She said the City had allowed to group to apply for grants and develop a program and that effort should be honored as an integrity issue.

Action: Provided comment.

Public Agenda

This portion of the agenda provides an opportunity for citizens to present items not shown as part of the regular meeting agenda. However, no items were scheduled or off-agenda items presented.

No action taken.

Board Agenda**Updates, Issues, and Reports**

Report on activities, events, or concerns in the neighborhoods and/or District V.

Board Members

Dennis noted that Public Works had reported the Water & Sewer proposal for the Rainbow Lakes area was being completed.

Sullivan reported that an e-mail had been sent updating the Board on some Downtown Arena decisions. Being considered were changes to the structure and options for premium and regular seating.

Action: Received and filed.

With no further items, the meeting was adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

The next meeting for District Advisory Board V will be scheduled at Auburn Hills Clubhouse at **7:00 p.m. on September 11, 2006**, due to the holiday on the first Monday of the month.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dana Brown, Neighborhood Assistant
City Council District V